1993

Convention

NCNA *Journal*

N.C. N.A.

JOURNAL

CONVENTION 1993

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NCNA JOURNAL

Volume 18 Number 4 Convention1993

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After a long, hot summer, autumn has arrive bringing cool breezes, fall colors and anticipation of our annual state convention which will be held at the Market Square in High Point on November 5th, 6th, and 7th. We trust it will be a great show and convention.

We are hoping to have a larger auction this year. It will be held Saturday, Nov. 6th. If you have any items you wish to donate, pleased contact John Wills, Robert Hoadley or Forrest Michael. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

I have been reminded that there is still time to submit your nominations for the following awards:

1. Y. N. Scholarship
2. Jimmy Jackson Award for Junior Numistmatist
3. Bason Literary Award
4. H. Fred Simpson Award for Numismatist of the Year

Please submit their names as soon as possible.

Nominations are still open for officers and directors of the NCNA.

You should be receiving your ballot about the same time you get this issue. BE SURE TO VOTE!

See you at the convention!

Charles Kimber
President

34th Convention of the North Carolina Numismatic Association

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Thursday, November 4

6:00 PM	Bourse and Exhibit Area Open to Dealers & Exhibitors
9:00 PM	Bourse and Exhibit Area Closes

Friday, November 5

8:00 AM	Bourse and Exhibit Area Open to Dealers & Exhibitors
10:00 AM	Bourse Open to Public
6:00 PM	Bourse and Exhibit Area Closes

Saturday, November 6

8:00 AM	Bourse and Exhibit Area Open to Dealers & Exhibitors
10:00 AM	Bourse Open to Public
11:00 AM	General Membership Annual Meeting
2:00 PM	Educational Program Halbert Carmichael The Story of the English Shilling
4:30 PM	N. C. N. A. Auction
6:00 PM	Bourse and Exhibit Area Closes
6:15 PM	N. C. N. A. Awards and Installation Reception

Sunday, November 7

8:00 AM	Bourse Open to Dealers
10:00 AM	Bourse Open to Public
5:00 PM	Convention Closes
6:00 PM	Security Ends

NCNA AUCTION LOTS

#	Description	#	Description
1	California Souvenir Gold Token Set	18	1989 Proof Set
2	500th Anniversary Discovery Set	19	1889 Dollar XF-40
3	Scottish Communion Tokens (3)	20	WW II 50 cent Young Collector's Edition
4	1852 Silver 3 c G-4	21	1901-O $ MS-60
5	1867 N/R 5 c F-12	22	1923 $ AU-58
6	1928-D 25 c VG-8	23	1881-O $ XF-40
7	1955 50 c BU	24	1879-S $ XF-40
8	1947 South Africa 5 sh	25	1890-CC $ F-12
9	1927 & 29 25 c G-4	26	1899-S $ F-15
10	1921 Morgan $ PCGS/MS-63	27	1918 50 c F-12
11	1983 Proof Set	28	1918-S 50 c F-12
12	1991 Upper Deck Dion Sanders BB Card	29	1969-S 1c Proof
13	1964 Proof Set	30	1950 50 c BU
14	1989 Proof Set	31	1829 10c G-4
15	1858 SL 1c F-12	32	1946 50 c AU-58
16	1961 Proof Set	33	1890 Seated Dime Love Token
17	1962 Proof Set		

The following contributed material to this auction:

Autence Bason
Baxter Bason
Dale Berube
Halbert Carmichael
Bob Hoadley
Will Jordan
Forrest Michael
Morrison Myers
Dick Newsome
Donald Sharpe
Mike Shoffner
John Wills
Cape Fear Coin Club
Cumberland Co. Coin Club
Eagle Coin Club

COLLECTING EARLY U. S. COINS BY DIE VARIETY
BY MARK SMITH
PART 1
Background Information and the Early Mint

Numismatic collecting trends have taken several swings in the past fifty years. In the middle of the century, and as promoted by penny boards and commercially-produced folders, collection by date and mint mark was considered the normal goal. During the '50's and '60's, it became fashionable to collect rolls of coins and continue to pick coins out of pocket change. The '55-S cent and the '50-D nickels were obviously hoarded in the "roll" manner,but few 1914-D cents are currently found in rolls. Later, and as prices for date sets for many series became exorbitant, collectors chose to collect a single example of each series of coins -- or a type set. Collecting many series by "type became difficult, or least very expensive, due to the increased demand by collectors and decrease in supply of several scarce issues. And now, we have the slabs, and the theory that third-party grading will provide sanity to the marketplace and increased investor interest.

Obviously there are unlimited goals for collection of United States coins, such as collection of errors, commems, proofs, specific series, best-knowns, and other specialty collections. One method of collection, which can be educationally satisfying, historically enlightening, and hopefully, financially rewarding is the collection of early United States federal coinage by die variety.

For purposes of this series of articles, "early" is defined as the period between 1793 and circa 1837. The cutoff point is the middle to late 1830's as this seems to be a period of rapid advancement and change for the mint.

On March 29, 1829, Congress approved creation of new mint facilities. In January 1833 the building was completed with some new coinage machinery installed.

Previous to this era, coins were manufactured with a manually operated screw press. In the 1830's it was replaced by a steam-powered press for all denominations (and likely for working die preparation).

The earliest of U. S. coinage was struck in an "open collar". This type of collar wallowed the coin to expand somewhat, and would allow the edge lettering or other design, normally

transferred previously by other mechanical methods to remain. By the end of the 1830's all denominations were struck in a "close collar." which transferred the edge design directly during striking, in a one-step process.

Other methods of production were improved during this period, including the mint's purchase of a "reducing pantograph." which would allow automatic transferred of design from a large plaster casting to the actual size of a master die. Manual engraving of a master die was no longer necessary, although engraver's touch-u[was not uncommon.

In mid-1835, William Kneass, the mint engraver, suffered a stroke. C Christian Gobrecht, formerly under consideration as an assistant to Kneass was hired by another new person, Mint Director Robert Patterson. These two men offered a dramatic change in U. S. coinage, as design changes occoured for all denominations within a few years.

But, you may think, collecting early U. S. coins by die variety is extremely expensive. Obviously, if one were to attempt to complete die variety set of early Half Eagles in mint state, this would certainly be true. Only the highest of "rollers" could participate in this admirable endeavor. However, lower grade Half Cents can be purchased in the $20 to $50 range. Large Cents for $5 to $50, Half Dimes for $10 to $25, Dimes for $10 tc $50, Quarters for $25 to $50 and Halves for $25 to $40.. These prices seem reasonable when compared to those of the widely collected and readily available Morgan Dollar in mint state. The earlier series (chains, wreaths, flowing hairs, draped bust, etc) are more expensive, as are the gold issues and certain rare dates, due to limited mintages, consumer demand for date or type sets, and/or metallic value.

A die variety is defined by serious early U. S. collectors as a coin produced by a single pair of obverse and reverse dies. If an obverse, reverse or both dies are changed, then the resultant coin is considered a different variety.

To understand the concept of variety collection, some background is necessary in the minting process of this era. Generally, a working die was manufactured in a four-step process.

Prior to the reducing pantograph, a master die was created, with the details of the central device being engraved into a specially prepared flat face of die steel. The master die was

intaglio, or recessed, similar to the U. S. Indian gold coinage. The master die was then transferred by compression onto similarly prepared hub metal, leaving the design in relief, raised from the field and similar in appearance to the end product. Some early U. S. series were produced from working dies prepared from a single hub, while others are known from several hubs bearing differing details.

At any point in this process, additional engraving or punching could be performed to improve the overall design. This is particularly noticeable on the incuse "LIBERTY" AND "E PLURIBUS UNUM" seen on the capped bust silver coinage. In these instances these letters would not have been engraved in the master hub, as they would have been raised from the fields. Since engraving removes metal from a surface, it would not have been convenient to delicately remove all of the metal around a letter, leaving it raised on a master die. Rather the letters were engraved and/or punched into the hub, thereby producing the recessed lettering, which would similarly result in recessed lettering in the finished product. Some studies of the Capped Bust Half Dollar series suggest that punching was used predominantly, since the E in LIBERTY on the obverse matches the E in E PLURIBUS UNUM on the reverse. Conflicting views exist.

The hub, then, was used to transfer the central device to a working die, one again intaglio. Additional engraving could then be performed on the working die. Again using the heraldic eagle reverses for example, the line of the shield were apparently engraved directly onto the working die. Nearly every known reverse die of each denomination exhibits minor variation in shield lines. the peripheral devices (stars, berries, numerals, dentils, letters, etc) were then engraved or punched individually.

This method of working die manufacture, coupled with the inherent inconsistency of the engraver, ensured that each working die would be unique, although there are a few that is almost takes a microscope to differentiate.

The marriage of obverse and reverse dies, produced in such a manner, results in a distinctive coin -- a die variety.

Obtaining a single example of each die variety produced in any ear early U. S. series is a challenge that will surely satisfy the fixations of the serious collector and might result in a profitable

quest -- with appropriate advance knowledge. How does a new collector gain this knowledge? See Part 2 in the next issue to find out.

CHUCK'S COIN PUZZLE

Charles Kimber

B O O A I E W A C E L A G B A B E
P C W O B E N O O B C I S A X E T
I N B R I S N M L A O E A Y P F T
L S O S A D T Y U S A N S B K A E
G P S E O R N O M I M N N R R V Y
R M D A C A A C B E N O A I A N A
I A K O B R K A I S A T K D L I F
M O A L A B A M A E U X R G C O A
E A A E E T E S N C M A A E B W L
G R B N P W A D I R A N A A I E L
A R I N R L I T P E W L O D R B M
R A C O N N C S T I C U T S I R J
M L L E B E S I C E B L E S D I C
A I P A N T N A R L O B A F G U Y
N A A N T T N A R G A E B A E U H
L E O A O S W O O I N R R Y P E H
I C E I I A U Y A L E A K E O S F
M O L N L O C M M I S S O U R I X
A R W E T U C I T C E N N O T R K
A N D A L L E B A S I I Y E T T E

Find the following words in the maze.

BAYBRIDGE	ALABAMA	ALBANY	BOONE
BRIDGEPORT	ARKANSAS	ISABELLA	GRANT
CONNECTICUT	COLUMBIAN	MAINE	HUDSON
LAFAYETTE	DELAWARE	MONROE	IOWA
LEWISCLARK	MISSOURI	PILGRIM	TEXAS

COIN SHOW CALENDAR

LOCAL CHAIRMEN PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR, Box 5625, Raleigh, NC 27650 of your plans as soon as possible to avoid conflicts. Information transmitted in writing is safer, but between issues inquiries and information can be recieved during evening hours at 919-832-4128. or during business hours at 919-828-9450.

OCT

22-24 Suburban Washington, Baltimore MD, Gordon Berg, Box 1876, Rockville MD 20850

29-31 South Carolina Numismatic Assn, Hyatt Regency, Greenville SC, Don McAlister, 2207 West Parker Rd, Greenville SC 29611, 803-246-2685

30-31 Northern Va Coin Club, Community Center, Vienna VA, Earl Blaisdell, 703-241-0130

NOV

5-7 North Carolina Numismatic Assn, Market Place, High Point NC, Ted Hendrick, Box 12052, Raleigh NC 27605

13-14 Cape Fear Coin Club, Bordeaux Inn, Fayetteville NC, John Wills, Box 40632, Fayetteville NC 283098

13-14 Salem Coin Club, American Legion Bldg, Salem VA, Emmett G. Yonce, 2040 Roanoke Rd., Daleville VA 24083

DEC

11-12 Charlotte Stamp Expo, Days Inn, Woodlawn, Charlotte NC, Richard Canupp, Box 240155, Charlotte NC 25224

JAN

6-9 Florida United Numismatists, Orange Co. Convention Center, Orlando FL, Ginger Bryan, Box 349, Gainesville FL 32602

14-16 Carolina Coin & Stamp Conventions, Holshouser Bldg, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh NC, Ted Hendrick, Box 12052, Raleigh NC 27605

22-23 Northern Va Coin Club, Community Center, Vienna VA, Earl Blaisdell, 703-241-0130

FEB

18-20 Charlotte Coin Club, Merchandise Mart, Charlottee NC, Will Jordan, 704-364-2850

25-27 Peach State Coin Show, Galleria Expo Center at the Waverly, Atlanta GA, Larry Jackson, Box 76482, Atlanta GA 30358

26-27 Charlotte Stamp Show, Days Inn, Woodlawn, Charlotte NC, Richard Canupp, Box 240155, Charlotte NC 25224

MAR

3-5 American Numismatic Association, New Oreleans LA, ,

12-13 Shenandoah Valley Coin Club, Outlet Village, Waynesboro VA, Clarence Armstrong, 610 "C" St., Staunton VA 24401

18-20 Tennessee State Numismatic Soc., Days Inn, East Ridge, TN, Ruth Armstrong, Box 80052, Chattanooga TN 37414

25-27 Raleigh Coin Club, Holshouser Bldg, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh NC, Halbert Carmichael, Box 5625, Raleigh NC 27650

25-27 Model City Coin Club, Civic Auditorium, Kingsport TN, E. S. Stanley, 3737 Hemolock Pk. Dr., Kingsport TN37664

25-27 Suburban Washington, Baltimore MD, Gordon Berg, Box 1876, Rockville MD 20850

APR

8-10 DC Metro Show, Holiday Inn Express, Springfield VA, Rob Lehmann, Box 6283, Springfiled VA 22150

15-17 Lower Cape Fear Coin Club, Elks Lodge, Oleander Dr, Wilmington NC, O. T. Thompson, Box 4243, Wilmington NC 28406

23-24 Northern Va Coin Club, Community Center, Vienna VA, Earl Blaisdell, 703-241-0130

MAY

21-22 Charlotte Stamp Show, Days Inn, Woodlawn, Charlotte NC, Richard Canupp, Box 240155, Charlotte NC 25224

27-29 Georgia Numismatic Association, Georgia International Trade Center, Atlanta GA, Jack Hancock, Box 550309, Atlanta GA 30355

JUN

3-5 Parker Coin Club, Holiday Inn, Roper Mtn Rd., Greenville SC, Don McAlister, 2207 W. Parker Rd., Greenville SC 29611

10-12 Carolina Coin & Stamp Conventions, Merchandise Mart, Charlotte NC, Ted Hendrick, Box 12052, Raleigh NC 27605

17-19 Maryland State Numismatic Assn, Convention Center, Baltimore MD, Paul Singleton, Box 894, Annandale VA 22003

17-19 Memphis Paper Money Show, Cook Convention Center, Memphis TN, Mike Crabb, Box 17871, Memphis TN 38187

JUL

27-31 American Numismatic Assn, Detroit MC, ,

30-31 Charlotte Stamp Expo, Days Inn, Woodlawn, Charlotte NC, Richard Canupp, Box 240155, Charlotte NC 25224

SEP

24-25 Charlotte Stamp Expo, Days Inn, Woodlawn, Charlotte NC, Richard Canupp, Box 240155, Charlotte NC 25224

OCT

20-23 Peach State Coin Show, Galleria Expo Center, Atlanta GA, Larry Jackson

DEC

10-11 Charlotte Stamp Expo, Days Inn, Woodlawn, Charlotte NC, Richard Canupp, Box 240155, Charlotte NC 25224

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NCNA NEWS

Richard Doty, Curator of Western Hemisphere Numismatics at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC will give the educational program at the Raleigh Coin Club meeting on November 11, 1993. Mr. Doty is an expert on the history of coin technology and will speak on the contributions of Matthew Boulton to coinage as we know it today. The meeting will be held at the Kiwanis Center on Noble Road just off Old Wake Forest Road. The meeting will be at 7:30 PM. For further information call Halbert Carmichael, 919-832-4128

John Griffiee of Kure Beach won first place in US coins at the American Numismatic Association Convention in Baltimore with his exhibit of New Jersey tokens. John is an active member of Lower Cape Fear Coin Club. Congratulations for an exhibit that he has shared with us here in North Carolina. US coins is probably the most competitive of all the classes at ANA.

Trevor Robins, a former North Carolinian and still an NCNA member, has just had an article about the Sestroretsk Ruble published in the Numismatist. There is one specimen of these rare huge coper coins in North Carolina. _____

Director of Conventions, Ted Hendrick has announced the following appointments of committee Chairmen for the 1993 NCNA Convention

Clarke White: General Chairman
Ray McGuire: Bourse Chairman
Autence Bason: Exhibits Chairman
Clarke White: Security
Halbert Carmichael: Program Chairman
Dot Hendrick: Hospitality Chairman

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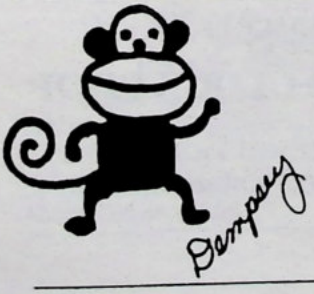

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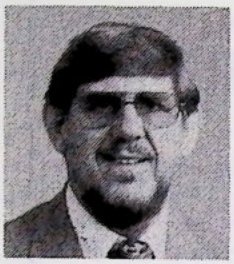

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